

Tape 017

HARVEY MCKEE

Interviewed by Mike Brown.

Mike Brown (MB): This is an interview with Mr. Harvey McKee, 3275 West 500 North, on the 8th of September 1977. This is Mike Brown of the Golden Age Center.

Well, maybe you can tell me a little bit about yourself, how did you and your family happen to come to this area?

Harvey McKee (Harvey): Well, my father is the one that came here. He and mother came out here when he was about twenty-nine years old. Worked here a year, liked the country. 'Course he came out 'cause it was a new area and cattle country. He said on Diamond Mountain, lots of Diamond Mountain, you could cut wild hay at that time. 'Course this country was all free. There were no homesteads much nor anything on the mountains and in a lot of this badland area. It was just first there, first served. That's the way our sheep and cattle industry started.

He was here two years and then he went back that winter and married Mother and brought her back with him. They settled in Jensen. They lived in Jensen for about fifteen years and then they came to Glines Ward and on up to this place in 1903. I was born here in the fall of 1903. They came here in 1903 and lived here ever since.

MB: Where did your dad come from?

Harvey: He came from Spanish Fork.

MB: From Spanish Fork.

Harvey: Yes, my mother was from Spanish Fork.

MB: Do you know about what year he came, the first time?

Harvey: Yeah, it would be somewhere's about 1885. He married in 1886.

MB: What did they do in Jensen?

Harvey: They had a small farm. That was his life – farming.

MB: So they lived in Jensen for quite a while before you came along?

Harvey: Yeah, they lived there. I don't know just exactly. Well, they came up here, I think they lived in Glines Ward for three years. So that would be about 1899. They lived there for three years, then moved up here and sold that place.

MB: When did he die?

Harvey: 1938.

MB: 1938. So you remember him quite well? What was he like?

Harvey: Oh, yes, I was a grown man. Well, I've often heard him say that he didn't know if he ever had an enemy. He was quite a peacemaker. His whole life was farming, stock raising. 'Course he had a family of eight. He loved his family. He had a very gentle, mild way about him. He was good-hearted.

MB: What was his name?

Harvey: William Harvey McKee.

MB: William Harvey McKee. Was this piece of ground here homestead or did he purchase it?

Harvey: He purchased it. I think Tommy Bingham, I think he homesteaded it, or else it was his son, Dave. Dad brought it from Dave.

MB: You grew up here?

Harvey: I grew up here. There was a house right down here. We purchased this house after I was married and lived there ever since.

MB: What was it like living out here in Maeser in those days?

Harvey: We thought this was the best end of the valley there was, probably the best ground. 'Course we were on the head of the canals. That helped some. We have some of the best ground in the valley right here in this area. I think I was one of those fellows that was just too young to go to the first war and too old to go to the second, so I missed them both.

MB: Are you the eldest in your family?

Harvey: No, I had one brother older than me. Harold and I were twins. I had a younger brother also and four sisters.

MB: So none of your family had to go off to war?

Harvey: No, none of my family had to go. I had a brother that was old enough in the First World War, but he was exempt.

MB: Do you remember the war years?

Harvey: Yes, you bet!

MB: World War I?

Harvey: Oh yeah, see, I was fifteen years old.

MB: How did that effect the town or, did it, you know, attitudes?

Harvey: Well, there was a really loyal attitude in the First World War. You saw no backbiting about our government or anything like that. I don't remember any of it. But everybody was real devoted to their country. When the call came they went. Many of them enlisted. I think that probably loyalty to the government was as strong as it ever was right at that time.

MB: During World War I. Do you remember the flu epidemic?

Harvey: Yes.

MB: I'm really interested to learn more about that, how that affected the valley here. What was that like?

Harvey: Well, we lost several people with the flu and one of the strange things was it took our very healthiest men, young men, right at the prime of their lives. I guess probably one reason: they were exposed a lot. We didn't have warm cars and things to get in them. We had buggies and wagons to travel in or horses. There were the men that were out in the atmosphere, in the cold, in the storms. When they got the flu, they were subjects for a bad case of flu. There were several around here passed away because of the fact. I think it was just probably over-exposure.

MB: Did any of your family get it?

Harvey: Yeah, I had a sister that was real sick with it. She was isolated and really brought down with a good one. We had an upstairs and she was isolated upstairs and a doctor took care of her.

MB: How did they treat that?

Harvey: Well, they treated it with steaming a lot, mustard plasters, and things of that type.

MB: Well, did they have any drugs or anything?

Harvey: Well, we had doctors then and they must have had some kind of drugs that they treated them with. I was sick, some thought I had the flu. I don't think it was the flu, they only isolated me a few days and I got all right and so I think, though, maybe it was just a cold. I was in the eighth grade at this time.

MB: Where did you go to school?

Harvey: I went here in Maeser, the Maeser School. I started in, it was called old Relief Society Building, for half a year. At Christmas time, the new building, the one that they are tearing down over here, it was finished and I went there the rest of the year.

MB: So you were in the first class, one of the first classes, there?

Harvey: Yeah, I was one of the first ones that went to school, I was only in kindergarten. There were others that were in other grades. It went up to the eighth grade, you see.

MB: What can you tell me about your school years?

Harvey: Well, I don't think I was the top student of the school. A woman called the other day. The kids found this notebook in the old school that they were tearing down and it was mine. She said they were going to come up and present it to me, but they never did come. And she said there were some awful cute stories in it, but oh my, that spelling. And I believe that is true because I never learned to spell since.

MB: You know that would be something. That would really be good to get a hold of.

Harvey: I don't know what they did with it. Those kids, I thought they were going to bring it up. But they didn't. I would have liked to have had it. I should have followed it up, I guess.

MB: Well, maybe you'll be able to get it yet.

Harvey: I might. They might've thought it wasn't worth much and probably threw it away.

MB: That's been sixty years, roughly.

Harvey: I started to school when I was seven years old. I was born a little too late to get in the year when I was six. I wasn't yet six when school started. But I was almost seven when I started school so I think that's been... It was about 1910.

MB: That's pretty interesting. Did you get into any mischief or orneriness when you were a little kid?

Harvey: Oh I think so. I think I had my share of it. I pretty much liked school. There were lessons I didn't like. But I liked the sports of it, the activities on the school grounds: baseball, basketball, those games. I think I pretty much liked school. Arithmetic was a slow one for me. Like I say, spelling wasn't very good. I liked history, reading those things.

MB: Did you ever play pranks or tricks on anyone?

Harvey: Well I guess we did. We were always pulling something.

MB: Do you remember any of them?

Harvey: I better not tell some of them.

MB: Oh, please do. It's fascinating. I'd like to hear those.

Harvey: Well, I'll tell you one. We went stealing cherries one time. One of the fellows brought it up that he was going to get a firecracker. He was going to pop this firecracker and holler that gentleman's name who we were stealing the cherries from. Of course, in order to make us all get started and give us a good scare, he cracked the firecracker and hollered so and so is coming. We begin to run and he ran into a cherry tree and like to knock him out. (Laughs) And he was the one who got the worse than any of us.

MB: Did they catch you at it?

Harvey: No. No, there wasn't anybody there. He was just pretending, see, just to make us scared, like this fellow was coming. Well, we used to have quite a lot of good times this way.

MB: What did you do for recreation? You know, they didn't have TV or things like that in those days.

Harvey: Well, our recreation, we pretty near had to make it ourselves.

MB: Did ya?

Harvey: 'Course after we got a little older, why they had quite a lot of dances. Our ward used to give dances here, more so than they do now. Each ward gave dances. And the MIA and that gave quite a lot of plays and things of this kind that interested the young people. We all had a basketball court on our property, you know, or a hoop, maybe only one hoop, but we all played to see who could get the most baskets. We used to play baseball, basketball. Football wasn't in it then. We didn't know much about football.

MB: I take it you like sports quite a bit?

Harvey: I did, yeah. I do yet.

MB: Did you continue going to school after the Maeser School?

Harvey: I went to high school.

MB: What did they call the high school in those days?

Harvey: Well, it was the Uintah High School.

MB: Uintah High School. So, you would have been in high school around 1917, 1918.

Harvey: Yeah.

MB: What was the high school like?

Harvey: Well, the high school, I think was a good school. They made lots of changes in their schools. But I sometimes wonder if they are for the better. Oh, I'm sure that there are a lot of things better. When we got through the eighth grade, we could read and write. I understand sometimes now that some kids can't. I know that's not general for all of them.

MB: It's surprising, more and more it is.

Harvey: Some of the kids are smart. They're real smart. But everybody, when he got through the eighth grade, could read and write. Well, I think we got a pretty basic course in arithmetic and algebra, geometry, some trigonometry. I never got very far in it, but they had a good school. There was typing and bookkeeping and all this in school. And I think that they had some pretty competent teachers at that time.

MB: Are any of your old teacher still around?

Harvey: One of our teachers, he left here several years ago. His name was Jake Lybbert. He moved up to Moses Lake. I understand he died here just a year or so ago, something like that. He taught mostly farm management and horticulture. Then he did teach religion class. He was one of our teachers who was here a long time, lived here. He taught here for years and years. A good teacher. Sainsbury taught here a long time.

MB: Sainsbury?

Harvey: Sainsbury. Some of his daughters live here. One of his daughters lives up here, Mrs. Frieda Davis.

MB: What did you like best about high school?

Harvey: Well, I don't know. I think, then again, that the sports were really my bowl of soup.

MB: Which one did you participate in?

Harvey: I played some basketball. I never was on the school team in basketball. I was a little too far away from town and I had quite a lot of chores to do, so I didn't get to try out there. I liked baseball, played some baseball, on the team.

MB: They didn't have a football team in those days?

Harvey: They didn't have a football club when I went to school.

MB: So what were the big ones?

Harvey: Well, basketball. Basketball was the big game. Baseball, we played a little baseball in the spring. But basketball was the main big game. We'd all give honors to the basketball team.

MB: Did the church have their own teams then?

Harvey: Not at that time, very much I don't think. I don't remember very many church teams at that time. This has come up later.

MB: I know that seems to be quite a big thing. They play each other.

Harvey: Yeah. The church has about as big an activity throughout as there is any place, I guess, with respect to ball teams.

MB: Was the church in those days, was the main form of, how would I put it, socializing with other people?

Harvey: Yes. Your church activities were the big activities. Your dancing was almost all put on by the church. A few dances in the high school. But most of the dances were put on by your MIA, Mutual. A big part of the activities was the church.

MB: I've heard that the church here in Maeser had a movie projector and used to show movies. Do you remember that?

Harvey: Yes, this wasn't when I was a kid, though. Movies were very rare when I was a kid. I remember down in the old Imperial Hall, it was call Orpheus at that time. They had a projector there and they showed a few of these silent shows, you know. It was quite a thing when us kids got fifteen cents and we could go to the picture show. From there they went over to the new show house which was called the Vogue. It's right in there by the Vernal Drug now, right in there in one of those little buildings close.

MB: The Vogue Theater. Was that the first movie house in Vernal?

Harvey: That's really the first movie house.

MB: Wonder who ran that, who owned it. Were the Shiners doing it?

Harvey: No. I don't know whether Glenn Cooper's dad might've had that, runned the show.

MB: Did that open up in the '20s or '30s?

Harvey: Yeah, that would have been in the '20s some time.

MB: You say it cost you fifteen cents to go?

Harvey: Fifteen cents to get into the show.

MB: Just out of curiosity, did they sell popcorn, and Cokes and candy bars and all the associated junk then?

Harvey: I don't remember of ever buying any in there. I don't think so.

MB: So you would just pay your money?

Harvey: Just pay your money. Fifteen cents is all you had anyway.

MB: What did you do after you got out of school? Out of high school?

Harvey: Well, I worked at different jobs. I used to do quite a little bit of road work with teams. I usually had a team.

MB: What sort of road work, building road or grading or?

Harvey: No, building road, road construction. Usually with a four horse fresno.

MB: Four horse what?

Harvey: Fresno.

MB: Fresno, what's that?

Harvey: Well, it's a big scraper that had four head of horses on it. It had a big Johnson bar, they called it a Johnson bar, that you held on to and drove with one hand and handled the Johnson bar with the other.

MB: What did that do, level the road or scrape it?

Harvey: You scraped the dirt from the bar pit up into the road where you wanted to fill a hole or make your grade, you know. It usually got the dirt right out of the bar pits and scraped it onto the road.

MB: Who was employing you?

Harvey: Well, I worked for one fellow by the name of Young for quite a little while. Then I worked down here in the twist for quite a while just after I was married, a year or two, worked all summer here. We didn't raise any crops. My brother and I got a job down there with our team.

MB: Was that one of the worst years during that whole period?

Harvey: That was the worst year we ever had here as far as drought. The Depression was on. The Depression hadn't subsided. You know, the Depression was here in '29. We had depression and drought. I tell you, we were hard hit. Couldn't get any money. It was impossible to get a dollar. What we did raise throughout the '30s, you just had to trade in, traffic with that, you had to probably get a few things that you needed. I worked up here in the old Farmer's Coal Mine one

winter. I worked all winter and I got \$5 cash. The rest of it I took in coal and just traded around. I traded for a separator, a milk separator. Oh, I don't know, just whatever I could trade coal for, that's really what I took. This is the way we got along for a few years. It was pretty hard. We were just married. Bought this place and trying to pay for a mortgage and making ends meet. It was pretty rough.

MB: What year did you get married?

Harvey: 1930.

MB: 1930. Who was your wife?

Harvey: Reva Hunting.

MB: Hunting. Was she a native of Vernal?

Harvey: Yeah, she was a native of Vernal. She had been married before, she had two boys when I married her. I got a boy and a girl. So we had four children.

MB: You know, all the years between the time you got out of high school until the time you married, was that just road work years?

Harvey: Oh, I worked in the coal mines on the mountain part of the time, wintertime quite a lot, done a little farming. I helped my father here on the place quite a lot. Then there were road jobs, so we could get in a little job, maybe for a month, with our teams and get a job with the team for whatever it took to do the job. Mr. McConkie over here, fellow that used to live here, used to do a lot of assessment work in oil shale. He hired us young fellows to go out and help him do his assessment work.

MB: What does that mean?

Harvey: Well, these fellows filed up on this oil shale out there; I think it was forty-acre lots. Every one of the lots had to have some work done on it to prove up on it, see, or you couldn't claim it. So, they had to have these assessments on the claims. That was to get in there and dig a hole so big, in this hill or bank or wherever it was in the oil shale. As I remember, those holes were about twelve by twenty. I think we had to make the holes. We'd have to shoot them; we'd have to drill a hole. We used churn drills then.

MB: A churn drill?

Harvey: A churn drill. It was a long steel rod that had a bit on the end of it. Stand there and drill this here thing up and down until we had a hole down there six to ten feet, then shoot the powder. Then we'd have to go in and muck it all out, clean it up and make a pretty nice looking square hole. This was their assessment claim they worked to show they were proving up on this claim.

MB: I take it that it didn't matter if you found anything, just if you had a nice hole in the ground?

Harvey: Oh, no. That's all. Just to show, to prove that you were proving up on this ground. Just like they used to prove up on property, on land. They had to make so many improvements on this land to show that they were proving up.

MB: I could see that on a homestead, but I can't understand that, that doesn't make a lot of sense unless they actually found it, or was that supposed to be the start of a mine shaft?

Harvey: No, this was just to show interest, that they were proving on this ground. They had to do something to prove up on this ground.

MB: Have men and money out there?

Harvey: Yeah, it would cost them so much to prove up on this oil shale tract of ground. So, this is the way to show that they had been there and done so much work on the place.

MB: About when were they doing that?

Harvey: Oh that was in the '20s and '30s.

MB: '20s and '30s. You mean, they had oil shale development then?

Harvey: Oh yeah. There was no oil shale or oil. But the oil shale was there. I don't know. It was quite rich stuff. I know we used to make fires out of that stuff, get some of that rich ore and some brush or something, and start a little fire, and that stuff would burn.

MB: Whereabouts in the county?

Harvey: Well, that was out here on the Book Cliffs mountains and out around White River. Lots of these claims were on the White River.

MB: Did it amount to much then?

Harvey: Well, these fellows proved up on it, a lot of them. Mr. Banks, I can't remember his first name, he had a lot of those claims, and N.J. Meagher had some. They'd get Charlie McConkie to go up there and do this work for them. 'Course he'd get us young fellows to go out and help him.

MB: What kind of wages did they pay?

Harvey: Oh, we got \$3 a day.

MB: Was that pretty good then?

Harvey: That was a good wage then. Thing of it is, you'd camp someplace where you could get

water. I've seen us walk five miles and carry our tools and powder and dinner and a water bag. Carry those old churn drills, picks and shovels to these claims. I don't know if you could get anybody would do that now or not. We were glad to do it and get \$3.

MB: Would you work all day and walk back?

Harvey: Work and walk back. You'd go out there, get up early enough to get there by 8:00, put in your eight hours and walk back.

MB: Sounds like a heck of a way to make a living.

Harvey: That was a hard way to make a living, but that's the way she went.

MB: You know when you were telling me that you got coal as part of your pay, were you able to barter that a lot?

Harvey: Yeah, you could barter it. My brother traded some coal for a set of harnesses down there at Newton Brothers. They needed coal for their building. He got a nice set of new harnesses for his coal. We just trafficked it off or something. Sometimes these stores would need a little coal and you could get a little store trade once in a while.

MB: Sounds like it worked out pretty good to everyone's advantage.

Harvey: Maybe it wasn't too much worse than what we got now, I don't know.

MB: You don't pay taxes on it.

Harvey: Five dollars doesn't go very far now, though.

MB: What I understand, the barter system is coming back. More people are using it. Because you don't have to pay city, state, federal, any kind of tax when two people trade something.

Harvey: Is isn't a bad way to deal. Things were awfully tight at that time. Mother died in 1932. I know we didn't have any money and we went to the bank to see if they would loan us a little money. Dad had this farm, he'd been a resident here all his life, his credit was good. There just wasn't any money. They told him, they said, "We can let you have \$150 for thirty days." I had a herd of hogs. I had twenty head of hogs. They weren't quite finished, but they were in good shape. But they went 180 pounds. They wanted them at about 200 pounds. In order to get this money, I had to let them go just a little light, about 180 pounds. Those twenty head net me just \$100. This was some of the things we put up with during the Depression and drought.

MB: Who did you dad try to borrow from?

Harvey: Uintah State Bank.

MB: Now was that Meagher's?

Harvey: No, the old Uintah State Bank was on the other side, it's First Security now.

MB: Did he do business with Meagher in those days?

Harvey: No, he did most of his business with Uintah State Bank. The Uintah State Bank was just a bunch of local people. He was acquainted with all these local people. He made his first banking with these people he knew. Meagher came into the country, I think he came in here about the early 1900s.

MB: The reason I ask, I heard that Meagher was real good about giving people money.

Harvey: He was. Meagher was real good. Ralph's dad, Siddoway, was the president of the other bank. Dad knew him well.

MB: Was that William Siddoway?

Harvey: William Siddoway. There were others, Coltharp and all these fellows. Lots of these local fellows owned this Uintah State Bank and Dad had a little money in there, too, I don't think too much, but anyway he had some. So this is where it was.

MB: How much land did you guys have?

Harvey: I think when he first come he had somewheres around sixty acres. He added on when some of the neighbors sold out to him. He had about eighty-five acres.

MB: Is that how much you were taking care of during the Depression?

Harvey: Yes. My brother and I were working together. Then we would lease other grounds to make ourselves enough, united, to do us both.

MB: From what I understand, you raised cattle?

Harvey: Well, we had a little dairy herd that we started in on and we had a few cattle, had a little permit, it wasn't big.

MB: Permit for what?

Harvey: Permit for cattle to go up on the mountains. You had to get a permit to put cattle on the range, government lands.

MB: From whom, BLM?

Harvey: No, not the BLM, from the government, this national forest up here. The BLM owns this

here grazing ground out in the desert here mostly.

MB: Was the BLM more for sheepmen?

Harvey: As I remember it, at this time we didn't have any BLM.

MB: This is before '35 or '36?

Harvey: Yes.

MB: So, would you take your herd up there in the summers?

Harvey: Yes, we usually went on the first of June and came off the first of October.

MB: Now did you stay up there with them continuously?

Harvey: No, usually had a herder. All the little groups of cattle on these little permits, the first of June was our date to go on. We'd all take our cattle and branded our own brand you know, everybody had his own brand. We put our cattle up there and hired a herder to take care of them.

MB: How many head did you have?

Harvey: Oh, we usually run about thirty head.

MB: This is all milk cows?

Harvey: Oh, no, this is our young stuff we put on the mountain. Our milk cows, of course, we kept at home.

MB: Did you market the milk?

Harvey: Yeah, we marketed mostly cream at that time. We had to separate it. This is in the early '30s. We marketed down here at Calder's Creamery.

MB: Calder's Creamery?

Harvey: Um hum, haven't you run across that yet?

MB: Yes, Ralph told me about that. I called the lady who ran that, or whose family did, but she didn't want to talk to me. I'll have to try her again. Ralph said that they had that there for a number of years. How did that operate?

Harvey: Well, we all either took our milk down there or else cream. I remember years ago when I was a kid, we all had to take our own milk down there or else cream. They finally hired a man, or a man took a milk route, and he'd go around here and gather up the milk. He had a team and

wagon. He gathered up this milk and took it into the creamery. They processed it into cheese, butter, ice cream. Calders were well known for their ice cream, they sure made good ice cream. They made good cheese and butter.

MB: So you and other people would sell your milk to Calder's and whatever they did with it, that was their business?

Harvey: That was their business. They paid us cash for it.

MB: Was that a lucrative operation?

Harvey: Well, I think it was a pretty good business. Calders made pretty good money. I think they made fairly good money at their creamery. They were the only people who were running it, so they made some good money. They made a good living. We never were big enough, I don't think, to make any money at it because we had just probably half dozen cows in order to get a light bill and a little grocery money. This was about all the money we had was what we could make through the cream and a few calves, a bit of stock. Something to get the taxes. That was about all we were in it for, a little grocery money and our taxes, that's about all we needed, fifteen cents for a show once a month for the kids.

MB: What did Calder's pay you and for how much, how much milk or cream that you sold them?

Harvey: It seems to me about as low as I ever remember it was about thirteen cents a pound for cream.

MB: Thirteen cents a pound?

Harvey: That's right in the Depression. I think cream mostly went for twenty-five cents a pound.

MB: How much milk does it take to make a pound of cream?

Harvey: Well, if a cow would give three gallons of milk a day, that would make two pounds.

MB: A two-to-three ratio?

Harvey: Maybe two and a half pounds, say.

MB: So, even with half a dozen cows, you would make a dollar a day if you were lucky?

Harvey: If we were pretty lucky. Through that Depression I made just about \$30 a month.

MB: \$30 a month?

Harvey: Take care of me and my family and pay off the mortgage.

MB: Did you have any other source of income?

Harvey: Oh, a little work with my team, and I'd raise a few hogs, then have a few hogs, or I might have a few steers to sell. My cream and my milk was mainly what I lived on.

MB: Was there a lot of cooperation in those days? Did you work closely with the other members of your family?

Harvey: Yes, and with your neighbors. Lots of cooperation. Come corn time we just took our corn harvester, went around here and put everybody's corn in the silo. Lots of times with hay we did the same thing. We didn't have money to hire a crew so we just worked through our neighbors and did our haying.

MB: Sounds like it was joint survival.

Harvey: We had to have each other to survive. That's all there was to it, we couldn't do it by ourselves. We used our neighbors and they used us I guess.

MB: You know, in other parts of the country I've read that at that time, they had farm sales when people would go broke. Were there any incidents of that in the valley here?

Harvey: I don't think there was too much in this valley.

MB: Where banks foreclosed on mortgages?

Harvey: There were people no doubt who went broke, but I say that these banks were made up of some of those local people, farmers, and if they could at all give a man a break they did it. I think we had some real good banks in this country to help people. There were a few foreclosing, I think. Some people would try and get discouraged to the point that they wanted to give up. But I think that if anybody still wanted to stay with his farm and do the best he could with it, I think they gave him a chance. I know this is the experience I had.

MB: Did you ever have trouble in some years where you couldn't make your mortgage payments?

Harvey: Yes. Years I couldn't even pay my taxes.

MB: What would happen if you couldn't pay your taxes?

Harvey: Well, your taxes would go for four years. After four years, you were sold out for taxes if you couldn't raise them. But you did have this four-year period that you were eligible to raise your taxes. Four years at least to come out and pay your tax bill.

MB: So, was the county pretty easy to deal with?

Harvey: 'Course the county had to have their money. I think you had to give some kind of money. At the end of this four years, you had to have your money to pay your taxes or they had to sell something to this tax money.

MB: So, you might have to sell off a small chunk?

Harvey: Well, either a small chunk or maybe you had some livestock or something. Take and sell it to get this tax. But they were lenient, too. I'm sure that the county gave people every break in the world that they could. I don't think there was half the greed, probably, that there is now to get a fast buck out of a man. I don't remember much of that. I don't think there was any greed at all. Like nowadays, if you get something on a fellow and get a fast buck out of him, that's what you're after. There wasn't near that in those days.

MB: Did you ever work for any of the New Deal programs? Were you ever associated with any of them?

Harvey: What do you mean, WPA?

MB: Yeah, or CCC or NRA?

Harvey: No, I never got in on it.

MB: Did any of those effect you? Like I heard there was a cattle killing program?

Harvey: Yes, there was. I had a bunch of milk cows. had just got started. I had a bunch of about fifteen head. The government at that time come in and if you didn't have any feed, they took and killed them and gave you \$11 a head for them.

MB: That's how much you got paid, \$11 a head?

Harvey: Yes, and \$4 for a good yearling calf.

MB: Did you not have feed?

Harvey: Yes. This was in '34, that year I was telling you about that was so bad. I think I had two loads of hay and I did raise a little corn, not much. But I saved my team and I think four head of milk cows and two or three heifers.

MB: Did Leroy Carroll kill them?

Harvey: Leroy was in the program to kind of oversee or to run this program here, in this part of the vicinity.

MB: I would take it that you've known him quite well all your life?

Harvey: Oh, yeah, we've always been neighbors. He's a little older than I am, but he had a brother my age, or practically my age, who was there about the same years.

MB: Were you good friends of his brothers' ?

Harvey: Oh yeah. We knew them all. There was Orville, Free, Vet and Roy.

MB: Orville, was it he that got....?

Harvey: Orville was killed.

MB: So, you lost almost all your herd then?

Harvey: Yeah.

MB: Did that money pay your taxes that year?

Harvey: Yeah, I guess, probably. Probably just about paid the taxes.

MB: Well then, did things pick up for you towards the end of the war?

Harvey: Yeah, I think it went into about '36 or '37 and things started picking up. I'll tell you that a lot of people kick about that WPA, but that was the only thing that ever saved us.

MB: Did you support Roosevelt at that time?

Harvey: You bet I did! You bet! And I'll do it yet.

MB: Were you a Democrat?

Harvey: You bet.

MB: I haven't got a lot of the political history yet, but from what I gather, there weren't a heck of a lot of Democrats and they weren't real popular.

Harvey: Well, we're not yet.

MB: I'm thinking back in the '30s.

Harvey: Well, I think it's true now. There aren't too many Democrats here in this valley.

MB: Were you involved in the party?

Harvey: I voted. I voted Democratic you bet.

MB: Were you unpopular with your neighbors or friends?

Harvey: No, I don't think so. They voted like they wanted and I voted like I wanted. We might argue politics a little bit.

MB: Yeah, that's what I meant. You're the first Democrat I've run across, or anyone that's admitted it.

Harvey: Well, I'll tell you. My brother and I had calves here. We were milking this twenty-five to thirty head of cattle. We had calves and we had hogs and you couldn't sell them. People couldn't buy them 'cause they didn't have any money. When Roosevelt put this program on, all these people around here that didn't have jobs got on WPA, got a little money stimulated and they started to buy my calves or my hogs, some milk and some butter. They had to have it, they needed it for food. I had all the food I could eat, I never lived better in my life. One time, I had an upstairs here, I had eleven head of hogs killed up there and couldn't sell them.

MB: That's a ton of meat.

Harvey: Yeah. In the spring I still couldn't sell it and I gave it all away, neighbors, family, anybody. Gave most of it away that I didn't use myself. And I say we never lived better in our lives as far as food is concerned. But my kids got awful raggedy I'll tell you. We didn't have many new shoes.

MB: So this thing got cash money stimulating, flowing?

Harvey: Right, everybody kicked about this WPA and about the New Deal. But I want to tell you that it needed some kind of stimulation. This did it. It got these people to working, a little money to buy with. Now the Republicans' view to this was Hoover, and he put out a lot of money and put it to the banks. Well, the banks just paid their own debts with it and it never did reach us people, see. Roosevelt said, "Let's give it to the people." So Roosevelt got this WPA and PWA, they were two different projects, but about the same. And he got this CC camp going. I had one brother, my younger brother, who got in on that CC camp. He sent home money to Dad. Dad was old at that time and didn't have any means. Nobody had any means because we didn't have any money. You couldn't get money. The WPA is what saved these farms because it got a little stimulus going and we got to sell a little bit of stuff and that's the only thing that got it going.

MB: I take it that even though it was helping the people and everything, that it was still unpopular, broadly?

Harvey: Well, I think it was unpopular here because this was a Republican territory. A lot of people, well, there was lots of fun made of WPA and I know it was abused. There was lots of people who got on WPA that are just like they are on welfare today, they leaned on their shovel handle. But it gave a little money to buy something with that stimulated prosperity. Money to get along with. And we all got a little of it.

MB: So, you think that's when things started picking up?

Harvey: It sure was in this country.

MB: Did that help keep a lot of the small farms intact?

Harvey: It did. These small farms were able to get just a little bit, just enough to pay their taxes with. There were a few who went broke. But when a man has to take all coal for what he gets, and he's got to pay taxes with \$5 of that... You know, that's all I received one winter.

MB: Yeah, you couldn't take the county a load of coal.

Harvey: Yeah, I wasn't paying much tithing, I don't believe, at that time. But if I paid it, I paid it with meat. I remember giving a pig, or one thing or another, for tithing. We used to give hay and grain and things for tithing. Everything was almost in kind at that time.

MB: Did the church disseminate that right here in the valley, or would they take it somewhere else?

Harvey: It was disseminated right here mainly.

MB: Were there poor people here, I mean really poor people, who needed that?

Harvey: Yeah, there were some. But this wasn't really counted as a right poor area as far as food was concerned because everybody was farmers here. Everybody was either farming or indirectly connected with farming, gardening. The thing was, we were poor in was cash. We did do good with pigs. I remember we used to take our hay down to the tithing office, they had a yard right down here. They had a pair of scales there. You drove over it with your load of hay and it was weighed and stacked right there. In the wintertime I remember some of these big sheep men used to buy that hay. Of course, this was turned into money and the money distributed throughout the welfare.

MB: I see, so like the sheep men would buy it and pay the church cash?

Harvey: Lots of it was sold to sheep men, and I guess cattlemen, or anybody else that might need some hay could go there and buy it.

MB: So, in some respects it was like a business enterprise?

Harvey: It was. I remember us kids used to gather fast offerings and it was even counted. Very little money. Once in a while you'd get a little bit of money, but very seldom you got any money, it was fast offering.

MB: What was fast offering?

Harvey: Oh, we'd go take a sack or two so we could gather flour, and maybe we'd get flour from this neighbor on our beat. We were each given a beat to go on. Maybe some bacon, some butter, soap. We used to make our soap down here, you know, lye soap, laundry soap. Just anything they had, sugar. I know we used to get sugar and take it to the tithing office, record it in their books, what you got.

MB: Was this fast offering a periodic thing, twice a year, once a year?

Harvey: Once a month.

MB: Once a month, does that still go on?

Harvey: Are you LDS?

MB: No, I'm not.

Harvey: Oh, I see.

MB: That's why I need to find out more about how these things work.

Harvey: Fast offering is a program, set up to take care of the poor in the church. Once a month, deacons come around and gather fast offering. Nowadays it mostly is all cash. I guess probably once in a while you get a little in kind, but very little I would think. They come around and gather the fast offering. Everybody is not made to pay the fast offering, nothing is compulsory. But it's your duty and your responsibility to help the poor. And this, again is a fund, it's given to the bishop. And he breaks it out where he needs it. If he doesn't need it here, they might need it in the stake. If the stake doesn't need it, it goes to the region. If the region doesn't need it, it goes on into headquarters.

MB: I see how it works. Have you ever been a bishop?

Harvey: Yeah.

MB: When were you a bishop?

Harvey: I was a bishop from '44 until '53.

MB: Here in Maeser? Was Maeser one ward then or was it two?

Harvey: It was split while I was bishop.

MB: What did you do after these Depression years and about the same time you were bishop? Were you involved in private business or....?

Harvey: No, I was a farming. I had gotten a little bigger and I got into a Grade A set with my dairy, and I was milking about thirty head of cows. We got to the point where we were selling to Hiland Dairy. They'd come out and pick up our milk in those big milk tanks. I was in this Grade A set up. We had to have our barns inspected once or twice a month. Any time these inspectors wanted to come around, you'd better be ready for them.

MB: Whose inspectors?

Harvey: State inspectors, Board of Health.

MB: Now is the Grade A set up, did that mean you had to meet certain standards?

Harvey: Yeah. Grade A set up meant I got a little more money for my milk right along with this Grade A set up, but I had to meet certain standards to do it. I had to have a barn that would pass specifications, and this barn had to be kept up and cleaned up and our dishes had to be cleaned. Milk buckets and everything had to meet certain specifications, even my corrals. I couldn't pile manure in my corral, I had to scrape it out of there every other day at least to keep up sanitary specifications.

MB: How long did you have your herd, or do you still have it?

Harvey: No, I don't have it now. I milked cows forty years. I didn't have this Grade A set up all that time, but all my married life I milked cows.

MB: When did you sell out?

Harvey: In '68.

MB: I would assume then that if you were self-employed, did you have more time to devote to the bishopric? See, I've talked to other people who were bishops, but they had another job, like working for the government or working for someone.

Harvey: Well, I don't know why. I've often said the Lord blessed me. I did as well when I was a bishop as I ever in my life, and I guess it was the best time on my farm, probably, than I ever did know. There were times when I was called in to do something for the church. I spent a lot of time in the church. But I got along all right, too. My crops seemed to do good. I had as much, I think, after my term as bishop was over as I had before. I gained. They all stuck around me.

MB: Would you settle problems within a family or between families?

Harvey: Yes, or neighbors.

MB: Did you do that a lot?

Harvey: Yes. Married people. Performed lots of marriages. I was in there at quite a time. I was in

from '44 to '53, you see, the war was on at that time. Then when they turned these boys loose, they were all ready to get married. The women and girls were all ready to be married. Boy, I performed two a day here for a while.

MB: Sounds like a full-time job in itself. With the post-war baby boom you were pretty busy baptizing, too.

Harvey: A lot of my marriages now, their children are married. Some of them are thirty years old at this time. So, they marry and they get family. I must've had, I figure, a hundred marriages while I was bishop. That's more than most of them. Might not be quite that many, but I had quite a lot of time.

MB: That's fascinating. Do you still have any of your old equipment?

Harvey: Yeah. There's some of this old stuff out here. Not very much of it.

MB: You don't happen to have any of the old churns, do you?

Harvey: No, I don't think so. We never churned much. We sold our cream to either Calder's or Hiland or wherever we sold see. I didn't do much churning. Years ago the folks used to churn. After I got into the business, the churning deal was about over. We just shipped it to each creamery and they did the churning.

MB: Are you still farming out here?

Harvey: I have about thirty acres here that I farm, but I let the boys have most of what I had.

End of tape.